

# North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2014

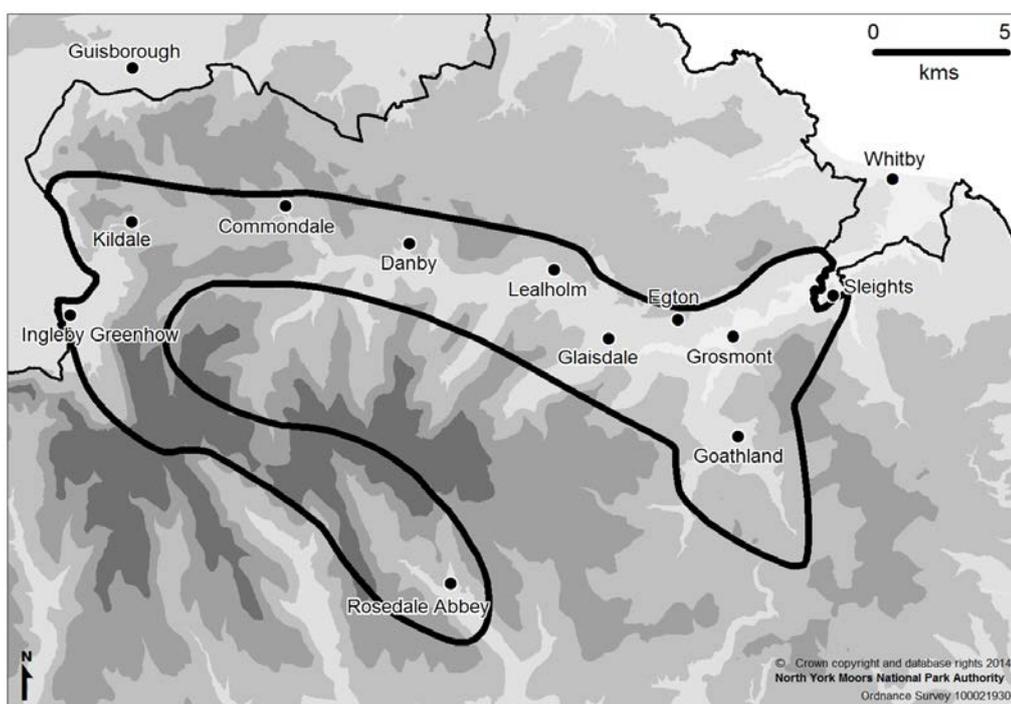
## This Exploited Land

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To bring Members up to date with progress in the Development Phase of the 'This Exploited Land' – Landscape Partnership Scheme (TEL)

### 2. Background

- 2.1 *This Exploited Land – the trailblazing story of ironstone and railways in the North York Moors* is a Landscape Partnership Scheme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The Scheme was developed in partnership and submitted by the North York Moors National Park Authority to HLF in May 2013 and received a Stage One pass in October 2013. The Stage One pass triggered a two year Development Phase with an HLF grant of £198,000 to fund development costs. The submission deadline for the second stage application is 31 October 2015. The total funding earmarked by HLF for TEL, subject to a Stage Two approval, is £3m, the maximum Landscape Partnership grant available.
- 2.2 The Scheme aims to tell the story of forgotten communities and pioneering ironstone exploitation and early iron-making together with the early development of railways during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the valleys of the northern half of what is now the North York Moors National Park. It will also embed this within the wider landscape that we know today and integrate it with the area's biodiversity and how the previously industrial sites have been reclaimed by other uses and the natural environment. The TEL area is a wide horseshoe covering 200km<sup>2</sup> stretching from Goathland in the east, along the Esk Valley and crossing the moors below Kildale into Rosedale.



- 2.3 TEL will conserve, protect and record six key industrial archaeological sites: Grosmont ironworks; Esk Valley mine head; sites along the (Grosmont to Goathland) Rail Trail which include bridge structures along the 1836 railway route, mining remains at Beck Hole and the railway incline; Warren Moor mine complex in Kildale; the kilns, cottages and trackbed at Rosedale East and the calcining kilns at Rosedale West (Bank Top).
- 2.4 TEL will enhance and protect sites of ecological significance to contribute to the National Park's programme of habitat connectivity. In particular, TEL will aim to extend the upland hay meadows in Rosedale, protect the wild daffodils in Rosedale and restore PAWS (plantations on ancient woodland sites) across the TEL area, including a partnership scheme with the Forestry Commission at Beck Hole. Connectivity work will be carried out along the Esk and the Murk Esk and engineering solutions to the removal of at least two of the barriers to salmon migration will be carried out. A programme of conservation at Fen Bog will be undertaken in partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.
- 2.5 The Scheme will tell the story of ironstone and railways in a compelling and comprehensive way. It will connect with the peoples of Teesside, the inheritors of the iron making legacy, and will explore how the influences of the early industrial heritage of the North York Moors stretched across the globe.
- 2.6 The Scheme will have an apprenticeship programme and a major volunteer programme. In addition, there will be a Small Grants Programme of £100,000 within the overall Scheme to enable communities and interest groups to carry out complementary projects within their own localities.
- 2.7 The TEL Scheme is being promoted and driven by a broad Partnership of organisations under the leadership of the NPA and is being co-ordinated and developed by the TEL Project Team who sit within the NPA's Conservation Directorate. The Partners are statutory agencies including English Heritage, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission together with local interest groups and organisations which include the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society, the Esk Valley Railway, local history societies, parish councils and local authorities.

### **3. Progress to Date**

- 3.1 The TEL Project Team took up their posts in April 2014. The Team comprises Programme Manager Stephen Croft and Heritage Officer Dr Louise Cooke. The Team is supported by specialist officers from both the Conservation and Park Services Directorates as well as input on financial, procurement and other back office management issues from Corporate Services and input on specific planning concerns and building conservation advice from the Planning Directorate. In this sense the TEL Project is a genuinely cross-Authority Programme.
- 3.2 A detailed programme has been produced and agreed by HLF who have appointed an independent Monitor to advise the Team and to report back to them on progress throughout the Development Phase.
- 3.3 A detailed survey of the key archaeological sites and monuments has been commissioned. This study is assessing current condition and structural integrity, the impact of past conservation works and is recommending a prioritised programme of new works together with options for conservation, as appropriate, and costs. The overriding approach is to have minimal intervention wherever possible. This consultancy work is being carried out by Purcell UK, based in York, who are expected to present their detailed findings by the end of December 2014.

- 3.4 Biodiversity surveys are being carried out in Rosedale, along the Esk and Murk Esk and within the PAWS woodlands across the TEL area, potentially using a partnership approach with the Woodland Trust. Individual consultations are being undertaken with the major landowners and the farmers and land managers concerned. Draft land management agreements are being drawn up but conditional upon the release of the HLF funding.
- 3.5 Fish pass engineers have been commissioned to survey two target fish barriers, at Glaisdale and Butter Beck, and they have produced costed engineering designs for inclusion in the Stage Two bid.
- 3.6 PCP Market Research of York were commissioned to carry out visitor and non-visitor surveys to create a baseline for the TEL programme and to inform the plans for audience development and the interpretation scheme. The results are encouraging. There is a significant appetite to learn more about our industrial heritage amongst both our visitors and non-visitors and we have unearthed a surprising high level of interest amongst the non-visitors in being involved in 'hands-on' conservation projects. Further research will be carried out to develop this potential.
- 3.7 Quotations have been received for providing architectural services for alterations at the Moors Centre to accommodate the industrial heritage story. BHD Partnership of Whitby has been appointed and expect to have the preliminary survey work complete by Christmas.
- 3.8 There have been two well attended full Partnership events so far this year, one at Esk Valley in April and the latter event in early November at the Moors Centre in Danby. The Partnership continues to sustain its enthusiasm and contribution to programme development. A sub-set of the Partnership, the Executive Group, meets monthly under the chairmanship of NPA Member Andrew Scott to drive progress and to shape the Stage Two bid on behalf of the wider Partnership.
- 3.9 Beyond the Partnership is a growing 'Wider Interest' Group. A quarterly electronic bulletin keeps this Group up to date.
- 3.10 Members have been kept informed of progress through regular reports to FRASC and through short updates in the Members' Bulletin.
- 3.11 TEL Project Team officers attended all of the 2014 Summer agricultural shows within the TEL area to promote the programme and to gauge public support. The results have been encouraging.
- 3.12 Invitations continue to be received to give talks to various organisations about both the planned Scheme and the ironstone story which has inspired it.
- 3.13 There is press interest in TEL. Articles have appeared in The Times, the D & S Times and there has been a first interview with BBC Radio York. There are plans for further press and media coverage in the New Year. Four articles have been posted on the NPA blog.
- 3.14 In parallel with the consultancy works, the Project Team are collating the information for, and drafting, the background documents which will form the evidence base for the ultimate Second Stage bid to HLF.
- 3.15 Since the Stage One pass, a study into historic mine water discharges has been published. In partnership with the authors, the University of Hull, and with funding support from the Environment Agency, a pilot remediation project using reedbeds will

be carried out at Sil Howe, above Goathland, this financial year. This may form a model for future remediation works and could be incorporated into the overall Scheme.

#### **4. Next Steps**

- 4.1 In January 2015 the Executive Group will review the consultants' detailed proposals and costings for the archaeological conservation work and will agree a prioritised programme for inclusion within the bid.
- 4.2 Similarly, a review of the extent of the deliverable biodiversity work will be carried out in parallel.
- 4.3 These two key reviews will enable the scale and scope of the final programme of work to be consulted upon and agreed. HLF have invited the Project Team to a formal mid-term review of the Development Phase in early February at which the draft programme and budget will be presented. It is unlikely that all of the desired works will be achievable within the £3m grant budget so a degree of prioritisation is anticipated.
- 4.4 Work will continue in the early months of 2015 to draft the Landscape Conservation Action Plan. This is the main HLF submission document and this will be ready as a complete draft by the end of September to allow plenty of time for final changes to be made and for the document to be optimised throughout October. In their (HLF) words, this is the 'prospectus' or 'manifesto' for our landscape. It will be a comprehensive document containing an analysis of the landscape and its significance. This analysis includes its human and cultural value as well as its importance as a physical landscape. A full Statement of Significance, compliant with international conventions, is being drafted to capture the question of 'why this landscape is important and to whom it is important?'
- 4.5 Following the evaluation of the key archaeological and biodiversity proposals, detailed project plans will be prepared for each component project. At this point there are 36 projects, many with sub-projects. Each will be fully detailed, costed and will clearly set out who will deliver it, what precisely will be done, how it contributes to the 9 HLF programme outcomes, the costs and management arrangements and the legacy/sustainability proposals.
- 4.6 All statutory, legal and landowner consents will be in place prior to the submission in October 2015.
- 4.7 There will be a detailed roll-out programme for the first year of Delivery, complete with all matched funding identified. After such a prolonged Development and Approval period, it is important to see early signs of delivery on the ground.
- 4.8 The Partnership will continue to seek match funding for the bid.
- 4.9 Membership of the Partnership will be kept under constant review and strengthened as necessary to ensure it reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of the Scheme, its communities of place and interest and that it has the necessary expertise to ensure long term success.

#### **5. Longer Term Plans**

- 5.1 HLF have confirmed that they will take a number, as yet undefined, months to assess the final bid before they issue their formal 'Permission to Start' document. On this basis, the Project Team are planning for a Delivery Phase start date of April 2016. It should be noted that no Landscape Partnership Scheme has failed to secure its Stage

Two approval, but this is absolutely no guarantee of success and the coming months will represent a significant but achievable challenge in terms of securing the Delivery phase.

- 5.2 The HLF funded TEL programme will run for 5 years which is anticipated to be until the end of March 2021. The legacy of the programme must however last well beyond.
- 5.3 The approved Stage One bid envisages a 4 person delivery Team. The Programme Manager and the Heritage Officer will be supported by an Ecology Officer and a Volunteer Co-ordinator. It is expected that these two new part-time posts will be recruited in time for the formal start of the Delivery Phase, April 2016. Despite the addition of these posts the TEL programme will continue to rely on and integrate with the wider work of the Authority as the lead partner for the Project.
- 5.4 The Partnership will continue in place throughout the entire Delivery Phase and will not be wound up until a Succession Strategy is agreed, approved and functioning effectively.
- 5.5 The Partnership will commission an Evaluation study as part of its commitment to meeting HLF expectations. Delivery of the Evaluation study will trigger the release of the final 10% of the HLF funding.

## **6. Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 6.1 The current Development Phase has secured £198,000 of HLF funding to cover staffing and consultancy costs. The funding has a contingency allowance to cover additional investigative work as required. There is a full time Programme Manager and a 0.6 Full-time equivalent (FTE) Heritage Officer. HLF will fund any bridging period between submission of the bid and Permission to Start, if the Scheme is approved, but this is at the Authority's risk.
- 6.2 The overall Scheme will receive £3m of HLF grant over the period 2016-2021. The current £198,000 is part of the overall £3m but any underspend will be carried over into the main Delivery Phase.
- 6.3 The National Park Authority has formally confirmed its commitment to match fund the HLF with £250,000 from Reserves and the Programme is reliant on a significant amount of in-kind time from all departments which in some cases may impact on the delivery of core funded work. This is however understood and accepted on the grounds of the significant opportunities and benefits the programme can bring to the National Park and to the TEL partnership.

## **7. Contribution to National Park Management Plan**

- 7.1 The TEL project will contribute to a wide range of Management Plan targets. In particular:
  - E1 The landscape character of the National Park will be maintained/enhanced
  - E5 The archaeological heritage will be conserved or restored
  - E8 Knowledge, awareness and understanding of the archaeological heritage will be increased
  - E9 The traditional skills base will be developed
  - E11 Existing habitats will be conserved, restored and expanded...
  - E12 The connectivity and resilience of habitats will be improved...particularly in relation to species rich grasslands, woodlands and river corridors

- E13 The conditions for wildlife within streams, rivers and riparian habitats will be improved
- E36 Better connected and more resilient woodland habitat networks...through restoring PAWS
- E43 Watercourses will be protected and restored for the benefit of wildlife
- U10 The awareness of the National Park amongst the regional population and visitors will be increased
- U11 Under-represented groups will be supported to increase their awareness/access
- U13 Children within and outside the National Park will be engaged during their school career
- B21 Employment and training opportunities will be increased
- B23 Traditional skills will be developed within the workforce
- C2 Opportunities for volunteering will be created
- C3 Communities will be involved in plan-making and delivering services and projects
- C4 Local communities will be supported to maintain and celebrate local heritage etc and record their social, cultural and economic history
- C5 The interpretation of the landscape and cultural heritage will be encouraged

## 8. **Legal Implications**

- 8.1 Land management agreements will follow the National Park standard terms and conditions. Agreements with landowners to carry out works will be subject to legal contracts with access obligations where appropriate.

<h2>9. <b>Recommendation</b></h2>
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| <p>9.1 That Members note the content of this progress report; and</p> <p>9.2 Agree to receive a further update on the TEL Programme ahead of the Stage Two submission at the September 2015 NPA Meeting.</p> |
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**Background papers to this Report**

**File ref**